

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-3, 9-11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,078,879 (taori). Further, claims 4, 5, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over taori in view of U.S. 5,647,005 (Wang). In addition, claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over taori in view of Wang and further in view of Sluijter ("a Time Warper for Speech Signals," Proceedings of IEEE Workshop on Speech Coding Proceedings. Model, Coders, and Error Criteria, Porvoo, Finland, 20-23, June 1999, pages 150-152).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, however claims 1, 9, 15, 19 and 25 have been amended to clarify the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-26 are patentable over Taori, Wang and Sluijter for at least the following reasons, where also the prior arguments are incorporated herein by reference.

Taori shows an encoder in FIG 2 that outputs signals through a multiplexer 22 to a decoder shown in FIG 7. Assuming, arguendo,

that Taori teaches an encoder that 'could' make a frequency change signal, as alleged by the Examiner, there is still no teaching or suggestion of using the frequency change signal by the decoder to derive the audio signal, as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 25. No such frequency change signal is shown or suggested from the signals exchanged between the Taori encoder of FIG 2 and decoder of FIG 7. Rather, as seen from FIGs 2 and 7, the encoder of Taori transmits to the decoder LPC codes, gain, and refined pitch. There is simply no teaching or suggestion of an encoder which provides a frequency change of the audio signal to be used by a decoder for deriving the audio signal, as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 25.

The signals provided by the Taori encoder 4 (FIG 2) to the decoder 14 (FIG 7), namely, the representations of the voiced and unvoiced speech signals, which representations are the gain and LPC codes for both the voiced and unvoiced speech signals, as well as the refined pitch for the voiced speech signal, do not include a frequency change signal to be used by the decoder for deriving the audio signal, as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 25.

Amendment in Reply to Advisory Action of November 25, 2003

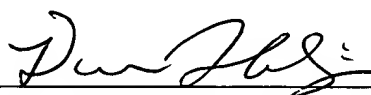
Wang and Sluijter are cited to show compression/expansion of the audio signal, and selection of highest peak in the autocorrelation function, and do not remedy the deficiencies in Taori. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 be allowed. In addition, as claims 2-8, 10-12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-26 depend from independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21, applicants respectfully request that claims 2-8, 10-12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-26 also be allowed over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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